

(a) the number of posts of Signallers surrendered in the Telegraph Branch, Division-wise, on the Indian Railways during the last two years ; and

(b) the reasons for surrendering these posts.?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Working Groups on Industrial Backwardness of States

9365. **SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh is topping the list of six industrially backward States according to the report of the working groups appointed by the Planning Commission ;

(b) if so, whether the Andhra Pradesh will not get much share so far as Industry is concerned in the Fourth Five Year Plan ; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to remove the backwardness of these States ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) to (c). According to the criteria adopted by the Working Group set by the Planning Commission for identification of backward regions, Andhra Pradesh has been considered as one of the industrially backward States in the country. The Working Group has submitted its report which is under examination, at present, by the Committee of the National Development Council. It will be placed on the Table of the House after the examination is completed.

Dissenting Note of a Member of Committee on Untouchability

9366. **SHRI RAM AVTAR SHARMA :** Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Shri R. Achutan, a member of the Committee on Untouchability in his note of dissent has stated that 'some vested interests are trying to exaggerate untouchability to capitalize on the misfortunes of poor communities ; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (DR. (SHRIMATI) PHULRENU GUHA) : (a). Shri Achutan appears to have expressed himself to this effect in the Second Paragraph of his dissenting note.

(b) The Report as well as the dissenting note is under the Government's consideration.

पिछड़े क्षेत्रों के बारे में बांबू और पाण्डेय समिति के प्रतिवेदन

9367. **श्री रामावतार शर्मा :** क्या औद्योगिक विकास, आंतरिक व्यापार तथा समवाय-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को पिछड़े क्षेत्रों के बारे में बांबू तथा पाण्डेय समिति के प्रतिवेदन प्राप्त हो गये हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उनका व्योरा क्या है ; और

(ग) मध्य प्रदेश जैसे पिछड़े क्षेत्रों के औद्योगीकरण सम्बन्धी उनकी सिफारिशों के बारे में सरकार द्वारा कब तक निर्णय किये जाने का विचार है ?

औद्योगिक विकास, आंतरिक व्यापार तथा समवाय-कार्य मंत्री (श्री फलकूदीन अली अहमद) : (क) जी, हां ।

(ख) और (ग). कार्यकारी दलों की रिपोर्ट की जांच अभी राष्ट्रीय विकास परिषद की समिति द्वारा की जा रही है । जांच पूर्ण